

The use of the infinitive

To – infinitive

1. Verbs followed by infinitive with to

afford	agree	appear	attempt	arrange	be able (to)	be about (to)		
be up (to)	beg	care	claim	can't wait	choose	consent	dare	decide
deserve	expect	fail	happen	hope	hesitate	intend	learn	manage
make up (her/his) mind	need	offer	plan	prepare	pretend	promise		
propose	refuse	seem	struggle	teach	tend	threaten	turn out (to)	
used (to)	volunteer	wait	want	wish	would like			

Example: We couldn't **afford to buy** a new car.

I **hope to see** you again

2. Verbs followed by an object and infinitive with to

advise	allow	ask	beg	cause	challenge	convince	dare
enable	encourage	expect	forbid	force	help	hire	instruct
invite	oblige	order	permit	persuade	remind	require	
teach (how)	tell	urge	want	warn	would like		

Example: He **told me to be** there before midnight

He **wanted us to help** them

They **forced me to stay**

3. After adjectives and adverbs:

Example: It's interesting to learn languages.

- **After adjective + for object / object pronoun + to –infinitive:**

It's common for young people to study abroad

- **Adjectives with enough and too:**

He is too young to drive

They are not old enough to get a driving licence.

4. After interrogative pronouns:

Example: I didn't know **what to do**.

5. To show purpose:

Example: I went to Paris **to learn** French.

Infinitive without to

1. After **modal verbs**: can, could, may, might, should, will, would... (except: ought to)

Example: He **can** run thirty kilometres a day

You **mustn't** drink alcohol

2. After verbs such as: **had better, would rather**

Example: You'd **better** go to the dentist.

I'd **rather** stay at home

3. After: **make, let, help**

Example: My parents don't **let** me get home later than midnight.

She **makes** me do everything

She **helps** young people get a job

MAKE: If it is in the passive voice the infinitive takes TO:

I **was made** to do the washing up.

HELP: can be used with or without to:

She **helps** young people get a job

She **helps** young people to get a job

The uses of the gerund

1. After certain verbs such as:

admit	avoid	be worth	can't bear	can't help	can't stand	carry on	cease	
consider	delay	deny	detest	enjoy	fancy	feel like	finish	give up
keep (on)	look forward to	imagine	involve	mind/ would mind	miss	practise		
postpone	practise	put off	recommend	resist	risk	spend	suggest	

Example: When you **finish** doing your homework, you'll be able to go to the park.

I **recommend** visiting the cathedral.

- **All PHRASAL VERBS which are followed by another verb are followed by gerunds:**

I **gave up** smoking last year

I **look forward to** seeing you again.

- **Gerund after these expressions:** it's (not) worth, it's no good, it's no use, be/get used to

Example: I am used to getting up early.

It's no use trying to persuade me.

- **Some verbs such as:**

like	love	hate	prefer
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They are usually followed by **gerund** in British English but they can also be used with the infinitive with TO.

LIKE uses the gerund to talk generally and the to-infinitive when we talk specifically.

I like swimming. (enjoy)

I like to swim first thing in the morning when there aren't many people. (I think this is a good idea or it's good for me. It is a habit)

In American English, the infinitive is used more often than the gerund for both meanings.

HATE, LOVE and **PREFER** are normally used with both forms with no change of meaning.

I prefer cycling / to cycle to work.

When **like, love, hate and prefer** are preceded by **WOULD**, they always take TO-INFINITIVE:

I **would like** to eat out tonight.

2. After prepositions and connectors:

Example: She is **good at** learning languages.

Despite being late, we decided to leave.

3. As a subject:

Example: Smoking is bad for your health

Verbs followed by infinitive with to or gerund

1. With no change in meaning

start	begin	continue	be accustomed to
attempt	intend	be committed to	can't bear

Example: It started to rain / It started raining.

2. Be careful with :

allow, advise, forbid, permit

Example:

- I advised **taking** the car. (no object)
I advised you **to take** the car (with object)
- We don't allow **smoking** (no object)
We don't allow people **to smoke** (with object)
 - Students **are not allowed to use** mobile phones (BE ALLOWED TO)

See , watch , hear

Example:

- I heard the boy **telling** the story. (gerund: we observe part of the action)
- I heard the boy **tell** the whole story.(infinitive without to: we observe the whole action from beginning to end)

3. With change in meaning

	Gerund	To-infinitive
Stop	<p>He stopped <u>smoking</u> last year. (dejó de fumar)</p> <p>It means that he finished doing that activity.</p>	<p>He stopped <u>to smoke</u>. (<i>Paró para fumar</i>)</p> <p>He stopped an activity in order to do another one. (For example he stopped working in order to have a cigarette.)</p>
Remember	<p>I remember <u>visiting</u> this place with my grandmother.</p> <p>The gerund refers to a previous experience in the past. When you remember you go backwards to search that memory.</p>	<p>Remember <u>to lock</u> the door.</p> <p>The to-infinitive refers to an action that must be done. You remember first and then you act.</p>

Gerunds and infinitives

<p>Forget</p>	<p>I'll never forget <u>going</u> to school on my own for the first time.</p> <p>It's usually used with a negative form to go back to the past to a memorable experience.</p>	<p>Don't forget <u>to send</u> the letter.</p> <p>It's a reminder of an action that must be done.</p>
<p>Regret</p>	<p>I regret <u>sending</u> my daughter to that school.</p> <p>With the gerund we refer to a past action which was done. We wish we hadn't done something.</p>	<p>I regret <u>to inform</u> you that you were not accepted.</p> <p>Regret means that you are sorry about the information you are going to say. It is used to give bad news in a formal and polite way.</p>
<p>Try</p>	<p>"I need to lose weight" " Try <u>exercising</u> and <u>eating</u> healthy food"</p> <p>With a gerund it means to experiment with different methods to see if something works.</p>	<p>I'll try <u>to finish</u> this for tomorrow morning.</p> <p>We use the to-infinitive to show that we make an effort to achieve something.</p>
<p>Need</p>	<p>This room needs <u>painting</u> (to be painted)</p> <p>It is a passive construction.</p>	<p>"You need <u>to lose</u> weight"</p> <p>It is followed by to-infinitive to show obligation. You must / have to do it.</p>
<p>Go on</p>	<p>Please don't stop, go on <u>showing</u> us your photos.</p> <p>Gerund is used to mean "continue"</p>	<p>When I finish shopping, I think I'll go on <u>to see</u> a film.</p> <p>To -infinitive implies a change of activity.</p>
<p>Mean</p>	<p>Being a footballer means <u>practising</u> every day. (significa, implica)</p> <p>Means = involve, imply, stand for</p>	<p>I mean <u>to work</u> hard at university (tener la intención de)</p> <p>To- infinitive is used to show intention</p>